The Scriptural Shape of Ministry

1 Timothy 4:11-16

1. God’s Word has transformational authority, 11-12
   1. The substance of our message, 11
      1. “These things” = the whole counsel; Scripture
      2. Command those who know
      3. Teach those who don’t
   2. The pattern for life change, 12
      1. Scripture vs. Cultural Expectation (youth/elder)
      2. Conformity to God’s Truth changes the church
      3. Conformity to God’s Truth changes the minister. Be an example:
         1. Speech
         2. Conduct
         3. Love
         4. Faith
         5. Purity
      4. The role of God’s Word in life change
         1. Ps 119:9, 11. Cleanse, Keep, Hid in heart
         2. Eph 4:17-32. Put off, Renew mind, Put on  
             Warning lights or engine?
2. God’s Word is the fuel for worship, 13-14
   1. Until I come, normative church practice, 13
   2. Read it
   3. Preach it
   4. Teach it
   5. Use your giftedness in accordance with it, 14

“And on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are **read**, as long as time permits; then, when the reader has ceased, the president verbally **instructs**, and **exhorts** to the imitation of these good things. Then we all rise together and pray” --Justin Martyr, 155

1. God’s Word deserves disciplined devotion, 15-16
   1. Put it into practice, cultivate, be diligent, 15
   2. Get into it, whole-hearted, be devoted  
       - Your progress will be observable
   3. Guard how you behave and what you believe, 16
   4. Persist, persevere, continue to do it  
       - Salvation for those who hear (Jn 1:12; Rom 10:17; Heb 12:2-13)

Discussion Questions:

* Is your life an example you want others to follow? (1 Cor 11:1) What is God calling you to correct in your speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity?
* To what degree do you prioritize Scripture in your life? What is the relationship between your life and doctrine?
* Are you neglecting your spiritual gift that has been recognized by the church? Why are we tempted to neglect our gift or short-change our practicing of it?